

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and
Sanitary Administration

OF

The Rural District of
Abergavenny

For the Year 1946

BY

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Dover & Co., Abergavenny



COUNCIL OFFICES,
MONK STREET,
ABERGAVENNY,

July, 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1946; dealing with matters affecting the Public Health and Social Welfare of your district during that year.

I. General Statistics.

Area ... 62,685 acres.
Population ... 7,592.

Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books
on 31st December, 1946) ... 2,154

II. Social Conditions and Chief Occupations.

Much of the area is mountainous in character; and the main occupation is agriculture, including market gardening; but, as a result of war-time industries, many persons continue to be employed at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Glascoed; the Blaenavon Works; and the Llanfoist Factory, now converted to the manufacture of Mechanical Joints, etc.

III. Births and Deaths.

Total number of Live Births	...	126
Legitimate	...	110
Illegitimate	...	16
Total number of Still Births	...	6
Legitimate	...	6
Illegitimate	...	Nil
Total number of Deaths	...	101
Total number of Infant Deaths,		
i.e., under 1 year	...	2 (both Illegitimate)
Live Birth Rate per 1,000		
of population	...	16·7
Still Birth Rate ditto	...	0·79
Death Rate ditto	...	13·4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000		
Live Births	...	15·9

IV. Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	Age 0—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	Over 25	Total	Treated in Hospital
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	...	2	3	3
Scarlet Fever ...	1	4	2	...	...	7	2
Measles ...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1 Milit'y In M'tal Hospital
Typhoid ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Totals ...	2	5	3	...	6	16	9

There were no deaths from any of the above diseases.

It is interesting to note the absence of Diphtheria among the children. The three cases which did occur were all members of one family; and the source of infection was an adult who came to spend a holiday in this area. The child who became infected had been immunised in 1941 when the smaller dose of APT. was being used; and her case demonstrates the importance of giving children immunised at that time a "revival" dose; if they are still of school age.

As will be seen from the above table, the district was very free from infectious diseases during the year.

V. Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases notified during 1946 ... 10

 Pulmonary ... 9 (3 patients in Mental Hospital)

 Non-Pulmonary 1

Total number of Deaths from Tuberculosis ... 3
(all Pulmonary cases).

(This does not include deaths in the Mental Hospital, where patients residence is in another area).

VI. Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

It has not been necessary to visit so many schools during the year, as, in many of them, all the children have now been immunised. Where this is not the case schools

the persons concerned were interviewed and sent to Newport Clinic for investigation, and if necessary, treatment. Similarly the M.O.H. was notified of civilians undergoing treatment who had moved into this area, and was able to ascertain whether such treatment was being continued at the Clinic.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I. Water Supply.

The sources of water supply in the district are numerous owing to the variations in altitude and the number of scattered, sparsely populated villages and hamlets. Springs are the main sources; and in general, i.e., in the villages or Mardy, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy, Llanover, Llanarth and Govilon, the supply is sufficient and the quality up to standard; but there are a number of smaller villages and outlying dwelling houses where the supply is inadequate or where analysis reports are not always satisfactory.

The main piped supplies owned by Local Authority are :—

1. **Pwllidu.** Spring in adit. with 2,000 gals. storage tank at source; supplying 35 premises by means of 6 stand pipes. This is the only supply in the district showing any plumbo-solvent action, and as a precaution, galvanised iron pipes are used.
2. **Garndyrris.** Spring with standpipe for 10 premises; with an extension of the main for 60 yards to a standpipe fixed near Garndyrris Cottages.
3. **Govilon.** Series of springs connected to a small tank utilised to drive a ram for the high level portion of the area; the overflow being utilised for supplying the lower level by gravitation. During the year the main was extended to give a more efficient supply to the small holdings known as Cadvor.

This supply is satisfactory in quality, but the quantity to the higher level is not always adequate. On the lower level 77 premises are supplied, mostly directly from the main. 50 premises are supplied on the higher level.

4. **Allws.** Spring utilised to raise water by ram to tanks with standpipes to 17 premises. During the year excavations were carried out on the 900ft. contour for a depth of 20 yards. The yield of the spring in November

was 720 gallons per day. This spring is being kept under observation with a view to its future use.

5. **Llanfoist.** Supply from Newport Corporation main through 3 & 4 inch pipes for 85 premises and the Factory ; with three standpipes for those premises not connected to the main. The average consumption for private dwellings is about 7,000 gals. per day.
6. **Llanelen.** Spring connected to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipe, supplying 16 premises. Quality is satisfactory, but quantity not always adequate
7. **Mardy.** Spring connected to 5, 4 & 3 inch pipes supplying 86 premises, all of which are connected to the main ; and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch branch pipes supplying Mardy Park and the Mill respectively.
8. **Llanvihangel Crucorney.** Overflow from the above spring is utilised to raise 12,000 gals. per day by hydrostats through 3 inch pipes to a 20,000 gals. concrete water tower for the supply of 58 premises, all connected to the main.
9. **Llanvetherine.** Spring with 1 inch pipe to tank and stand-pipe supplying 5 premises near main road. Another spring supplies 17 premises in the Caggle Street area by means of 2 standpipes ; some of the dwellings being at too high a level for gravitational supply.
10. **Llangattock Lingoed.** Spring with small tank and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipe supply to a standpipe supplying 12 premises ; the elevation of the source being too low to allow connection into the houses.
11. **Bettws Newydd.** Spring with supply connected to 10 premises in the village.
12. **Penlanlas.** Spring on the side of the Deri utilised to supply Penlanlas Cottages and the Farm.

The main privately owned piped supplies are as follows :—

1. **Llanover Estate.** Series of springs on the Nant, Llanelen, supply 80 premises over a large area of Llanelen, Llangattock-nigh-Usk, and Llanvair Cross. Satisfactory in quality, but pressure for some of the higher areas is insufficient. Cwm Uchaf spring supplies 9 premises by means of a 1 inch pipe. Llanover village is supplied by a 2 inch pipe from Coedyfelin Spring to a 25,000 gals.

storage tank which serves 34 premises. "New Inn" spring supplies another 23 premises in or near the village.

2. **Llanarth Estate.** Spring near Upper House supplies 19 premises through a $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipe; this supply is insufficient in drought periods. Springs at Court-y-gelly supply the villages of Llanarth and Great Oak; and a spring near Great House supplies the latter and raises water by ram to Cefn Coch.
3. **Grosmont.** Spring from which supply is carried by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipe to tank at upper end of village; and from there, by gravitation, through 2, $1\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipes to 20 premises.

In all, about 500 premises are supplied by Local Authority, and 205 by private supplies.

During the year 14 samples of water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination.

A number of minor repairs were carried out to existing water supplies—such as the wells at Pantygelly and Llanvapley, and the supply to Penlanlas Cottages.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act (1944).

In view of the Regulations laid down by this Act, a number of schemes were formulated during the year for improving the district's water supply, and submitted to the appropriate departments for consideration and sanction.

The following were approved by the County Council :—

Grosmont ; Llanover, Ceulan, etc. Scheme ;
Govilon ; Brynygwenin ;

and, with the exception of the Brynygwenin Scheme, will involve taking over the existing privately owned piped supplies. An informal enquiry has already been held by the Welsh Board of Health.

II. Sewerage.

The only Sewerage Works are those for the villages of Mardy and Llanvihangel Crucorney, with Disposal Works near Abergavenny Junction Station.

The P.O.W. Camp at Llanvihangel Crucorney has filter beds and septic tanks below the Camp. Sewerage from the Mardy P.O.W. Camp is incorporated in the Council's scheme for the village.

Llanfoist Factory has its own sewage plant ; the effluent containing chemicals which could not be dealt with efficiently in an ordinary sewer.

During the year schemes were formulated for the provision of Sewerage disposal works for Grosmont, Govilon and Llanfoist.

III. Housing.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority in December, 1946	...	...	86
Number of houses in course of erection by Local Authority in Dec., 1946	...	...	22
Number of houses completed (and tenanted) by Dec., 1946	...	...	8
Number of houses erected by private enterprise in 1946	...	...	2
Number of houses for which sanction had been given, but which not been commenced	...	...	12
Number of houses inspected for defects in 1946	...	...	22
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action by Local Authority	...	...	9
Number of houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served to carry out repairs	...	...	2

Housing Survey.

During the year an extensive survey was carried out, and the houses were divided into various categories.

523 houses were inspected.

Category No. 1.	Satisfactory in all respects	...	96
„ No. 2.	Minor Defects	...	160
„ No. 3.	Repairs or Structural Alterations	...	256
„ No. 4.	Suitable for housing (R.W.) Acts	...	1
„ No. 5.	Unfit	...	10

IV. **Milk Supply.**

Examination of cowsheds and dairies was carried out, and 7 samples of milk were submitted for analysis.

V. **Meat Inspection.**

Slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Abergavenny Abattoir, therefore no inspection of carcasses takes place in the Rural Area.

VI. **Refuse Collection.**

During the year the Refuse Collection was extended to include Brynygwenin, the Ross Road and the Council Houses, Llanvetherine area.

VIII. **Rodent Control.**

A full-time Assistant Rodent Officer was appointed to deal with infestation in the Area.

I am,

Yours faithfully

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS,

(M.O.H.)



